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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Item#1

10 STEPS TO FREE OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. National Center for Policy Analysis. John C. Goodman. July 30, 2009.

To confront America's health care crisis, America does not need more spending, more regulations or more bureaucracy, according to the report. America needs to liberate every American, including every doctor and every patient, to use their intelligence, creativity and innovative abilities to make the changes needed to create access to low-cost, high-quality health care, says John C. Goodman, President, CEO and the Kellye Wright Fellow with the National Center for Policy Analysis.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/ba669.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

Item#2

CHINA TO THE RESCUE: GROWING OUT OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS. Yale Global. Joergen Oestrom Moeller. July 28, 2009.

The global financial crisis is far from over even if the declines in the economic data have slowed. So the next question is how to pull the world out of its current malaise? For Professor Joergen Oerstroem Moeller the answer is clear: stimulate global demand. Unfortunately, the big drivers of demand growth in the past – primarily the US, but also Japan and Europe – each face major hurdles sufficiently large to suppose they won't be the engines of growth in the immediate future. On this analysis, Moeller recommends looking primarily to China.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12601> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX AND WORKERS' WAGES: NEW EVIDENCE FROM THE 50 STATES. Tax Foundation. Robert Carroll. August 2009.

High corporate income taxes are often justified by the rhetoric that businesses, and their high-income investors, should "pay their fair share." The report finds that states with high corporate income taxes have likely depressed their workers' wages over the long term, while states with low corporate taxes have boosted worker productivity and real wages.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.taxfoundation.org/files/sr169.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

Item#4

THE HEALTH CARE STATUS QUO: HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM WILL BENEFIT ALL AMERICANS. HealthReform.gov. August 7, 2009.

The reports outline how health insurance reform will improve health care for all Americans. "These reports show how health insurance reform will help Americans save money, get better care, strengthen their insurance if they already have it, and afford insurance if they don't," said Sebelius, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary. "Every American will benefit when we pass health insurance reform."

Full Text:

<http://www.healthreform.gov/healthcarestatus.html> [HTML format with links to each state].

Item#5

AN INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT. Center for Economic and Policy Research. John Schmitt and Nathan Lane. August 2009.

Contrary to popular perceptions, the United States has a much smaller small-business sector ,as a share of total employment, than other countries at a comparable level of economic development, according to the report. The authors observe that the undersized U.S. small business sector is consistent with the view that high health care costs discourage small business formation, since start-ups in other countries can tap into government-funded health care systems.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/small-business-2009-08.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages].

Item#6

NO EXIT: THE EXPANDING USE OF LIFE SENTENCES IN AMERICA. The Sentencing Project. Ashley Nellis and Ryan S. King. July 2009.

The report finds a record 140,610 individuals serving life sentences in state and federal prisons, 6,807 of whom were juveniles at the time of the crime. In addition, 29% of persons serving a life sentence (41,095) have no possibility of parole, and 1,755 were juveniles at the time of the crime. The report represents the first nationwide collection of life sentence data documenting race, ethnicity and gender.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/inc_noexit.pdf [PDF format, 48 pages].

Item#7

A PORTRAIT OF MORMONS IN THE U.S. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Allison Pond. July 24, 2009.

In Utah, July 24 is Pioneer Day, a state holiday commemorating the day in 1847 when the first Mormon settlers, led by Brigham Young, entered the Salt Lake Valley. Today, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and other Mormon groups make up 58% of Utah's population and 1.7% of the total U.S. adult population, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1292/mormon-religion-demographics-beliefs-practices-politics> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

A QUESTION OF BALANCE: POLITICAL CONTEXT AND MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE CHINA-TAIWAN DISPUTE. RAND Corporation. David A. Shlapak et al. August 2009.

The relationship between China and Taiwan is more stable in 2009 than it has been in years, but China has nonetheless not renounced its “right” to use force to forestall Taiwan’s “independence”. At the same time, the cross-strait military balance is shifting in ways that are problematic for Taiwan’s defense: The growing size and quality of China’s missile arsenal, along with other advances in Chinese military capabilities, call into question the United States’ and Taiwan’s ability to defend the island against a large-scale Chinese attack.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG888.pdf [PDF format, 185 pages].

Item#9

TAKING UP THE SECURITY CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Department of Defense. Rynn J. Parsons. August 2009.

Climate change, in which man-made global warming is a major factor, will likely have dramatic and long lasting consequences with profound security implications, making it a challenge the United States must urgently take up. The security implications will be most pronounced in places where the effects of climate change are greatest, particularly affecting weak states already especially vulnerable to environmental destabilization.

Full Text:

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdf/files/PUB932.pdf> [PDF format, 26 pages].

Item#10

THIRST FOR AFRICAN OIL: ASIAN NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES IN NIGERIA AND ANGOLA. Chatham House Report. Alex Vines et al. August 10, 2009.

The report on the activities of Asian oil companies in Africa exposes the flaws in many general assumptions about Asian engagement with Africa. The report analyzes the impact of these companies in the two leading oil producing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and contrasts the stability and policy consistency that are features of the Angolan system with a more insecure and unstable system in Nigeria.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/14524_r0809_africanoil.pdf [PDF format, 75 pages].

Item#11

U.S. ENERGY USE DROPS IN 2008. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Anne M. Stark. July 20, 2009.

Americans used more solar, nuclear, biomass and wind energy in 2008 than they did in 2007, according to the study. The nation used less coal and petroleum during the same time frame and only slightly increased its natural gas consumption. Geothermal energy use remained the same.

Full Text:

https://publicaffairs.llnl.gov/news/news_releases/2009/NR-09-07-02.html [HTML format, various paging].

Item#12

U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY LIKELY TO BOOST POPULATION. Yale Global. Joseph Chamie. July 30, 2009.

As the new US Administration and Congress begin to tackle immigration reform they will again be faced with the weighty question of how large should America's population be in the future.

Should America's population continue to grow indefinitely, perhaps doubling to 600 million by the end of the century? Clearly, any answer to this vital demographic question has serious and far-reaching economic, political, social and environmental consequences for America as well as for the international community of nations, says the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12620> [HTML format, various paging].